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Triumphal Arch

The Triumphal Arch, often attributed to Albrecht Dürer, is a significant work of art from the Renaissance period. Commissioned by the Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian I around 1515, this grand woodcut print was intended as a monumental piece of propaganda, celebrating the emperor's lineage, territories, and achievements. The work is a composite print made from 192 individual pieces, which when assembled, form an impressive image of a triumphal arch with three large gates, each symbolizing Honour, Praise, and Nobility. The central tower is adorned with scenes from Maximilian's reign, while the side gates are

flanked by historical events and the busts of ancestors, further glorifying the Habsburg lineage. The entire piece, when pieced together, measures almost twelve feet in height and ten feet in width, making it one of the largest prints ever produced at the time. The Triumphal Arch is not only a testament to the emperor's power but also a showcase of Dürer's mastery in printmaking, as it demanded meticulous work from the artist and his workshop over several years. Today, complete sets of this print are rare, with some hand-colored versions resembling tapestries, highlighting the intricate details and the grandeur envisioned by its creators.